

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 IO-14 OIC-04 AEC-11 OMB-01 H-03 NSC-10 SS-20

DRC-01 /164 W

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P R 301938Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 366

SECDEF/WASHDC PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR/SHAPE

USCINCEUR

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

EO: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: REVISED FRG STATEMENT

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE OPENING STATEMENT PRESENTED BY FRG AMBASSADOR
BEHRENDT TO THE OPENING MBFR PLENARY, OCTOBER 30, HAD UNDERGONE A
NUMBER OF REVISIONS SINCE THE TEXT REPORTED IN VIENNA 8690. THE
FULL STATEMENT FOLLOWS: END SUMMARY.

BEGIN TEXT.

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY,
I WARMLY WELCOME TODAY'S BEGINNING OF NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT THE MU-
TUAL REDUCTION OF FORCES AND ARMAMENTS AND ASSOCIATED MEASURES IN
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CENTRAL EUROPE.

THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION FIRST SUGGESTED SUCH NEGOTIATIONS IN 1968 AT ITS MINISTERIAL MEETING IN REYKJAVIK. FROM THE BEGINNING, MY GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROJECT AND ITS PREPARATION.

THE YEARS WHICH HAVE PASSED SINCE THE MEETING IN REYKJAVIK HAVE SEEN SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES REPRESENTED HERE. IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT MY GOVERNMENT SPARED NO EFFORT TO CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS FOR A LASTING PEACE IN EUROPE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE MILITARY CONFRONTATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE, MARKED BY AN UNUSUALLY HIGH CONCENTRATION OF FORCES, HAS NOT BEEN AFFECTED BY THIS TREND TOWARDS DETENTE. THE INTEREST OF AN EASING OF TENSIONS, THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS CAN, AND SHOULD, BRING ABOUT A MORE STABLE MILITARY BALANCE AT A LOWER LEVEL OF FORCES.

ALL PARTICIPANTS OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS AGREED DURING THE PREPARATORY PHASE IN SPRING ON THE PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY. WE ARE THEREFORE AGREED THAT FORCE REDUCTIONS MUST UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES AND AT NO POINT OF TIME LEAD TO ADDITIONAL INSTABILITIES, BE IT IN CENTRAL EUROPE, BE IT IN OTHER PARTS OF THE CONTINENT. FROM THIS PRINCIPLE FOLLOWS IN OUR JUDGMENT THAT WE SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE WELL KNOWN DISPARITIES AND DISEQUILIBRIA IN THE SECURITY CONTEXT. THESE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD THEREFORE AIM TO ULTIMATELY BRING ABOUT, AT A LOWER LEVEL, AN APPROXIMATE PARITY IN THE FORM OF A COMMON CEILING FOR GROUND FORCES OF EACH SIDE IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF CENTRAL EUROPE.

IN PURSUIT OF THIS GOAL, WE MUST TAKE INTO DUE CONSIDERATION THE MILITARY SITUATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE FOR WHICH THE FOLLOWING FACTORS ARE OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE:

I- THE LARGE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA AS COMPARED TO THE GEOGRAPHICAL PROXIMITY OF THE SOVIET UNION,
- RESULTING FROM THIS, THE DIFFERENCE IN REINFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES FAVORING THE WARSAW PACT,
- AND THE EXTENSIVE HEAVY ARMOUR POTENTIAL OF THE WARSAW PACT FORCES AND THEIR NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY IN MANPOWER.

MY GOVERNMENT ALWAYS REGARDED MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS AS AN ARMS CONTROL PROJECT NOT TO BE LIMITED TO THE REDUCTION OF FORCES. ON THE CONTRARY, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO SUPPLEMENT THESE EFFORTS BY MEASURES IN THE FIELD OF MILITARY SECURITY WHICH ARE RELATED TO REDUCTIONS AND HAVE A STABILIZING EFFECT. WE CON-

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SIDER AS NECESSARY THE INCLUSION OF MEASURES WHICH HELP TO BUILD CONFIDENCE, STABILIZE MBFR-RESULTS, VERIFY COMPLIANCE WITH THEM, AND REDUCE THE RISK OF MISUNDERSTANDING IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY EXERCISES AND MOVEMENTS. OUR ABILITY TO REACH AGREEMENT IN THIS IMPORTANT FIELD WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT TEST OF THE FEASIBILITY OF A FURTHER RELAXATION OF TENSION.

THE DELEGATION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY WILL ALSO BE GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- WE ARE AWARE THAT THE EXISTING SECURITY STRUCTURES IN EUROPE ARE A PREREQUISITE TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS. POSSIBLE RESULTS OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS MUST PROCEED FROM THIS BASIS.
- SUCH RESULTS MUST BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE PROSPECTIVE OF STRENGTHENING AND INTENSIFYING THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY;
- NO AGREEMENT MUST RELATE TO THE TWO STATES IN GERMANY ONLY.

IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT ON MAY 15, THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY TO THE PREPARATORY TALKS IN VIENNA ALREADY CALLED ATTENTION TO THE DIFFICULTY AND COMPLEXITY OF THE POTENTIAL SUBJECT MATTER OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, HE ALSO INDICATED THAT MY GOVERNMENT WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE TALKS "AS PATIE Y, SOBERLY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY AS THE SUBJECT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS REQUIRES." I WISH TO MAKE QUITE CLEAR THAT THE SAME APPLIES TO THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAVE BEGUN TODAY. WE ARE PREPARED TO ORGANIZE THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH REGARD TO SCOPE AND TIMING IN SUCH A MANNER THAT A THOROUGH AND EFFECTIVE APPROACH IS ENSURED. IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO PROCEED STEP BY STEP IN ORDER TO COPE SUCCESSFULLY WITH THE COMPLEX PROBLEMS FACING US.

THE MBFR-NEGOTIATIONS WILL GIVE RISE TO MANYFOLD EXPECTATIONS AND HOPES ALL OVER THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT, AND BEYOND. WE ARE READY ON OUR PART TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF TURNING AN HISTORIC CHANCE INTO HISTORIC REALITY.

OUR WORK WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO BE FACILITATED BY THE PLEASANT ATMOSPHERE OF VIENNA AND BY THE WELL KNOWN HOSPITALITY OF THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT. I WOULD LIKE TO SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY GOVERNMENT'S APPRECIATION OF THE FAVOURABLE WORKING CONDITIONS PROVIDED BY THE HOST GOVERNMENT. END TEXT.HUMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MBFR, MEETING REPORTS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENNA08961
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973104/aaaaacic.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <30-Oct-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: REVISED FRG STATEMENT BEGIN SUMMARY: THE OPENING STATEMENT PRESENTED BY FRG AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005